

TO: Governor George Pataki and the members of the New York State Assembly & Senate
FROM: The Fire & Emergency Services First Responders of New York State

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC) delivers the backbone of training to the state's fire service. State Fire Administrator Jim Burns and the OFPC team have recognized this demand but their financial ability to satisfy our training needs has already been exhausted and exceeded.

We are concerned that the threat of statewide budget cuts and other fiscal implications will further impact OFPC's ability to deliver training, thus adversely affecting our recruitment and retention efforts, and jeopardizing the safety of the our first responders.

This outcome is simply unacceptable. This challenge must now be met with increased funding for these vital training programs.

We, the undersigned, are requesting that the 2004 instructional budget of the Office of Fire Prevention & Control not only be maintained but, increased – ensuring the delivery of effective training to our emergency services personnel and safeguarding them and their ability to protect the citizens they put their lives on the line for daily. Without your commitment to funding this critical training, the lives of our first responders are at risk.

[illegible]